

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized method for learning a delivery point address and updating a database of such delivery point addresses and updating a database of such delivery point addresses by 5 using unmatched and/or unused data from at least one mail piece:

The method includes capturing text string from said mail piece using image capture means;

a. comparing the text string to a first set of preexisting data in address database to determine a match for the data on the mail piece according to a first set of predetermined 10 rules;

b. separating the matched and/or data from the unmatched data and/or unused data for the mail piece determined by step (b); and

c. correlating the unmatched and/or unused data from the mail piece to a second set of preexisting data according to a second set of predetermined rules,

15 wherein upon the presentation of another mail piece to the image capture means with the same intended delivery point as the first mail piece and having similar unmatched and/or unused data as the first mail piece, the correct point of delivery for the other mail piece can be automatically determined.

20 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising separating unused data from used data for said mail piece determined by step (b); and correlating said unused data from said mail piece to the set of preexisting address data according to a third set of predetermined rules,

wherein upon the presentation to the image capture means of the other mail piece with the same intended delivery point as the mail piece and having similar unused data as the at least one mail piece, the correct point of delivery for the other mail piece can be 25 automatically determined.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said capture means comprises an optical character recognition system.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said correlation step is performed utilizing a search engine.

30 5. A computerized system for learning a delivery point address and updating a database of such delivery point addresses using unmatched data from at least a first mail piece, comprising:

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- (a) means for capturing a data string of address information from said mail piece;
- (b) a directory retrieval system database comprising a set of preexisting data relating to an address to which said mail piece is directed, and further comprising means for separating matched data on the mail piece from the unmatched data;
- 5 (c) a database comprising the unmatched or unused data;
- (d) means for correlating the unmatched and/or unused data to the set of preexisting data according to a plurality of predetermined rules;
- (e) a rules database comprising said plurality of predetermined rules; and
- (f) a learning database to determine said delivery point of said mail piece upon
- 10 its presentation to the capture means after said mail piece has been processed by the system.

6. The system of Claim 5 wherein said capture means comprise an optical character recognition device.

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein said correlation means comprise a search engine.